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ABSTRACT

A study was conducted at Miami-Dade Community College (MDCC) to determine the extent to which college and state guidelines for the completion of college preparatory work were being followed. Current MDCC guidelines require students who score low on the Florida Multiple Assessment Programs and Services (MAPS) entrance examination to complete college preparatory coursework before they enroll in college-level courses. The study focused on 2,416 first-time-in-college students beginning at MDCC in fall 1985, who had taken the MAPS and had persisted for four semesters. Of this group, 40.4% had begun with skill deficiencies in reading, 36.5% in writing, and 38.4% in mathematics. Of the students with skill deficiencies, 40.4% successfully completed college preparatory work in reading, 50.9% in writing, and 44.7% in math. Reading had the lowest percentage of students who registered for, but did not complete college preparatory reading. Of the students who only needed to complete one remedial course, half completed it. In general, as the number of required courses increased, the course completion rate rose, although among students who were required to take all six college preparatory classes, only 5.4% did so. MDCC's placement criteria for 1986-87 are included. (AJL)

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COMPLETION OF COLLEGE PREPARATORY REQUIREMENTS AT MIAMI-DADE COMMUNITY COLLEGE BY FIRST-TIME-IN-COLLEGE STUDENTS ENTERING FALL 1985

Research Report No. 87-28

July 1987

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JC 890 162

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Completion of College Preparatory Course Requirements at Miami-Dade Community College by First-Time-in-College Students Entering Fall 1985

Compliance with both state of Florida and Miami-Dade Community College (M-DCC) entry-level placement testing and subsequent college preparatory course enrollment requirements has been the subject of several reports in the past (R.R. No. 85-30, R.R. No. 85-33, R.R. No.86-31, R.R. No. 86-36). Earlier reports, originating before college preparatory courses were made mandatory by the State (R.R. No. 83-39), have reported on voluntary enrollment in college preparatory courses. The general finding from these reports is that enrollment in college preparatory courses has increased from slightly over 50% of those scoring below the cut on the placement test enrolling in 1980 to approximately 90% enrolling in 1986. This has been attributed primarily to stricter guidelines and computer locks being implemented at M-DCC. However, these reports have looked only at enrollment in college preparatory courses. Both State and M-DCC guidelines consider students compliant if they enroll in at least one college preparatory course during the first semester at the college. Current M-DCC guidelines go one step further and require completion of college preparatory coursework to the point of achieving a "S" grade in the highest level in which the student's score was below the cut. Thus students who score low on the Math section of the Florida Multiple Assessment Programs and Services (MAPS) exam, the current assessment instrument at M-DCC, are expected to complete college preparatory math before enrolling in college-level math courses. The same is true for MAPS Writing scores and college-level English Composition courses. The current report focuses on the degree to which the guidelines for completing college preparatory work are followed at M-DCC.

Methods

Included in this report are first-time-in-college students beginning at M-DCC in Fall 1985 who had taken the Florida MAPS. In order to exclude students who had not completed college preparatory work due to withdrawing totally from the college or stopping out, with the exception of summers, students were only included who had been enrolled for both Fall and

Winter semesters of the 1985-86 and the 1986-87 academic years. Students were classified according to requirements for college preparatory courses on the basis of their subtest scores on the Florida MAPS according to guidelines provided by M-DCC (Appendix A). A summary of those are as follows:

MAPS Subtest	Scaled Score	College Preparatory Required
Reading	>=12	None
	5-11	REA0002
	1- 4	REA0001, REA0002
Writing	>=30	None
	21-29	ENC0007
	1-20	ENC0006, ENC0007
Algebra	>=206	None
	201-206	MAT0024
Computation	>=116	None
	101-115	MAT0003, MAT0024

A student was considered to have completed college preparatory courses only upon receiving an "S" in the highest level college preparatory course required in that area. If the student had registered for any college preparatory courses in the area in which scores were below the cut but a "S" had not been achieved in the highest level of college preparatory work in that area, that student's college preparatory work was considered incomplete. Students were also separated out on the basis of never having registered in any college preparatory courses in their particular area of underpreparation. College preparatory completion and enrollment data are through May 1987. It is feasible, although unlikely, that a student beginning in Fall 1985 could complete college preparatory courses after May 1987. This study will be repeated after Winter 1988, in order to determine any increases in completion rates from the time of this report until then.

Results

The cohort described above, those beginning college Fall 1985 (n = 7,765), with Florida MAPS scores (n = 5,073) and continuing the four major semesters through Winter 1986 (n = 2,416), is shown according to college preparatory status in Table 1. Of this cohort, 977 (40.4%) were below the cut score on the Reading subtest. Of these, 440 (45.1%) completed REA0002 with an "S", 229 (23.4%) enrolled in a college preparatory reading course but did not complete and 308 (31.5%) did not register for a college preparatory reading course.

Of that same cohort, 882 (36.5%) were below the cut score on the Writing subtest. Of these, 449 (50.9%) completed ENC0007 with an "S" indicating they completed to satisfaction the college preparatory writing course(s) required. On the other hand, 275 (31.2%) registered for a college preparatory writing course but did not complete while 158 (17.9%) did not register for one.

Of the total group, 929 (38.4%) were below the cut score in mathematics. Of these, 415 (44.7%) completed MAT0024 while 293 (31.5%) had begun but not completed college preparatory math and 221 (23.8%) did not register for any college preparatory math.

Overall, approximately 45% of the students requiring college preparatory courses in each of the three areas registered for and completed courses to fulfill this requirement. Reading had the lowest percentage of students who registered for but did not complete college preparatory reading (23.4%) and the highest percentage who did not register for an appropriate college preparatory course (31.5%). Math and writing were similar in terms of those who registered for but did not complete college preparatory courses (31.5%) and (31.2%). Writing had the lowest percentage who did not register for an appropriate college preparatory course (17.9%) while math was intermediate (23.8%).

Tables 2-5 show college preparatory status at each of the four campuses. North Campus (Table 2) and South Campus (Table 3) had approximately equal percentages who completed college preparatory reading requirements. Both campuses were in the 40% completion range for this area. The percentages completing the required math component were higher at the South Campus, 52.6% compared to 32.6% at the North Campus while those completing writing were higher at North Campus, 55.6% compared to 39.6%. Wolfson Campus (Table 4) had a higher percentage completing the college preparatory reading (63.3%) and writing (62.7%) requirements than the other two campuses and, like South Campus, had approximately one half of those requiring college preparatory math completely fulfilling this requirement. The Medical Campus (Table 5) had the highest percentage completing college preparatory courses to satisfaction. Over 80% of those requiring college preparatory reading and writing fulfilled this requirement while 59.1% completed the math requirement.

One factor which may be thought to have a bearing on completion of college preparatory courses may be the number of such courses required for a given student. As indicated earlier, a student may be required to complete as many as six college preparatory courses if that student falls into the lowest category in each of the three areas.

Table 6 shows the total number of college preparatory courses completed by the total number required. For this table, students were considered to have completed the individual courses if they received a "S" in either of the college preparatory courses. Of those students only requiring one, almost half did not complete that one. As the number required increases, the percentage who did not complete any decreases up to five being required. It then jumps up again so that of those who required all six, 41.9% did not complete any of the courses to the point of receiving an "S." It should also be noted that as the number required increases, the percentage who completed all required decreases so that of those who required only one, 51.7% completed that one or more while of those who required six, only 5.4% completed all six.

Table 7 shows the grades awarded in college preparatory courses at M-DCC. The highest level courses in each area, REA0002, ENC0007 and MAT0024, were the ones with the highest enrollment and these have reasonably close percentages receiving "S's" (67%-72%). The lower level courses, all have a lower rate of "S's". This may be due to the students being at a lower level but the possibility exists that the instructors are interpreting the grading system to mean that a "P" indicates that the student can progress into the next level of college preparatory work when in actuality, this is what an "S" in the lower level course should represent. The highest withdrawal rates were for MAT0003 (14.2%), and MAT0024 (13.5%) while all the others are in 3-7% range.

Discussion

In order to determine possible explanations for the above data, a sample of transcripts, through Fall Semester, 1987 of students from this cohort was selected for examination. Inspection indicated that distinct patterns seemed to prevail for each of the three areas.

The pattern for students not having completed college preparatory reading most frequently consisted of students who appeared to be no longer attempting to complete this requirement. Either they had registered for a reading course and received a "P" grade or had never registered. The majority were currently taking college-level courses and in the 2.0 - 3.0 G.P.A. range.

Students not having completed college preparatory writing had often either taken one, received a "P" and went into ENC1100, or went directly into ENC1100. It appears from the transcripts that this latter course is frequently used as an alternative to the lower level college preparatory course.

Students not completing college preparatory mathematics appear to be reluctant to enroll in any math courses. Students in this category most often showed no math courses on their transcripts, either college preparatory or college level. Apparently students requiring college preparatory

mathematics were more likely prone to postpone attempting to fulfill this requirement than the others.

In addition to these patterns for the separate areas, a common pattern arose when looking at students with 3-6 required college preparatory courses who had not completed any. These students often had spent much of the time during the semesters examined in English as a Second Language (ESL) courses. Since placement in these courses is based on the English Placement Test (EPT), students' records were examined for those containing both MAPS and EPT scores with the MAPS date prior to the EPT date. This would indicate an error in testing since students judged not to have sufficient mastery of the English language should be required to take the EPT before the MAPS. Of all students starting at M-DCC in Fall, 1985, 217 (2.8%) fell in this category.

Table 1

Percent of Fall 1985 First-Time-in-College Students Completing, Not Completing, Never Registering for, or not Requiring College Preparatory Work Based on MAPS Scores and Grades Received in College Preparatory Courses through Closing Winter 1986-87 at Miami-Dade Community College

College-Wide

	College Preparatory Status			
	Registered			
	Complete*	Incomplete**	Not Registered	Not Required
Reading				
Number	440	229	308	1,439
Percent of Those Requiring College Prep Reading N=977	45.1	23.4	31.5	---
Percent of Total N=2,416	18.2	9.5	12.7	59.6
Writing				
Number	449	275	158	1,534
Percent of Those Requiring College Prep Writing N=882	50.9	31.2	17.9	---
Percent of Total N=2,416	18.6	11.4	6.5	63.5
Mathematics				
Number	415	293	221	1,487
Percent of Those Requiring College Prep Math N=929	44.7	31.5	23.8	---
Percent of Total N=2,416	17.2	12.1	9.1	61.6

* Defined as having completed the appropriate final college preparatory course, REA0002, ENC0007 or MAT0024 depending on which subtest was below cut, with an "S" grade.

**Defined as having registered for any college preparatory course but not having achieved an "S" in the highest level for their area(s) of underpreparation.

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Table 2

Percent of Fall 1985 First-Time-in-College Students
Completing, Not Completing, Never Registering for, or
Not Requiring College Preparatory Work Based on
MAPS Scores and Grades Received in College Preparatory Courses
Through Closing Winter 1986-87
at Miami-Dade Community College

North Campus

	College Preparatory Status			
	Registered		Not Registered	Not Required
	Complete*	Incomplete**		
Reading				
Number	151	89	135	338
Percent of Those Requiring College Prep Reading N=375	40.3	23.7	36.0	---
Percent of Total N=713	21.2	12.5	18.9	47.4
Writing				
Number	185	73	75	380
Percent of Those Requiring College Prep Writing N=333	55.6	21.9	22.5	---
Percent of Total N=713	25.9	10.2	10.5	53.3
Mathematics				
Number	117	125	117	354
Percent of Those Requiring College Prep Math N=359	32.6	34.8	32.6	---
Percent of Total N=713	16.4	17.5	16.4	49.6

*Defined as having completed the appropriate final college prep course, REA0002, ENC0007 or MAT0024 depending on which subtest was below cut, with an "S" grade.
**Defined as having registered for a college preparatory course in their area of underpreparation but not having achieved an "S" in the highest level in that area.

Table 3

Percent of Fall 1985 First-Time-in College Students
Completing, Not Completing, Never Registering for, or
Not Requiring College Preparatory Work Based on MAPS Scores and
Grades Received in College Preparatory Courses
Through Closing Winter 1986-87
at Miami-Dade Community College

South Campus

	College Preparatory Status			
	Registered		Not Registered	Not Required
	Complete*	Incomplete**		
Reading				
Number	163	119	132	955
Percent of Those Requiring College Prep Reading N=414	39.4	28.7	31.9	---
Percent of Total N=1,369	11.9	8.7	9.6	69.8
Writing				
Number	153	179	54	983
Percent of Those Requiring College Prep Writing N=386	39.6	46.4	14.0	---
Percent of Total N=1,369	11.2	13.1	3.9	71.8
Mathematics				
Number	203	118	65	983
Percent of Those Requiring College Prep Math N=386	52.6	30.6	16.8	---
Percent of Total N=1,369	14.8	8.6	4.8	71.8

*Defined as having completed the appropriate final college prep course, REA0002, ENC0007 or MAT0024 depending on which subtest was below cut, with an "S" grade.
**Defined as having registered for a college preparatory course in their area of underpreparation but not having achieved an "S" in the highest level in that area.

Table 4

Percent of Fall 1985 First-Time-in-College Students
Completing, Not Completing, Never Registering for, or
Not Requiring College Preparatory Work Based on
MAPS Scores and Grades Received in College Preparatory Courses
Through Closing Winter 1986-87
at Miami-Dade Community College

Wolfson Campus

	College Preparatory Status			
	Registered		Not Registered	Not Required
	Complete*	Incomplete**		
Reading				
Number	95	19	36	112
Percent of Those Requiring College Prep Reading N=150	63.3	12.7	24.0	---
Percent of Total N=262	36.2	7.3	13.7	42.8
Writing				
Number	79	21	26	136
Percent of Those Requiring College Prep Writing N=126	62.7	16.7	20.6	---
Percent of Total N=262	30.2	8.0	9.9	51.9
Mathematics				
Number	69	39	32	122
Percent of Those Requiring College Prep Math N=140	49.3	27.9	22.9	---
Percent of Total N=262	26.3	14.9	12.2	46.6

*Defined as having completed the appropriate final college preparatory course, REA0002, ENC0007 or MAT0024 depending on which subtest was below cut, with an "S" grade.

**Defined as having registered for a college preparatory course in their are of underpreparation but not having achieved an "S" in the highest level in that area.

Table 5

Percent of Fall 1985 First-Time-in-College Students
Completing, Not Completing, Never Registering for, or
Not Requiring College Preparatory Work Based on MAPS Scores and
Grades Received in College Preparatory Courses
Through Closing Winter 1986-87
at Miami-Dade Community College

Medical Campus

	College Preparatory Status			
	Registered			
	Complete*	Incomplete**	Not Registered	Not Required
Reading				
Number	31	2	5	34
Percent of Those Requiring College Prep Reading N=38	81.6	5.3	13.2	---
Percent of Total N=72	43.1	2.8	6.9	47.2
Writing				
Number	32	2	3	35
Percent of Those Requiring College Prep Writing N=37	86.5	5.4	8.1	---
Percent of Total N=72	44.4	2.8	4.2	48.6
Mathematics				
Number	26	11	7	28
Percent of Those Requiring College Prep Math N=44	59.1	25.0	15.9	---
Percent of Total N=72	36.1	15.3	9.7	38.9

*Defined as having completed the appropriate final college preparatory course, REA0002, ENC0007 or MAT0024 depending on which subtest was below cut, with an "S" grade.

**Defined as having registered for a college preparatory course in their are of underpreparation but not having achieved an "S" in the highest level in that area.

Table 6

Number of College Preparatory Classes Required by Fall 1985
First-Time-in-College Students by Number Completed as of
Closing Winter 86-87

Courses Required	Courses Completed													
	0		1		2		3		4		5		6	
	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent	Number	Percent
0	899	95.8	39	4.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
1	224	48.3	217	46.8	22	4.7	1	0.2	0	0.0	0	0.0	0	0.0
2	102	28.3	155	42.9	95	26.3	7	1.9	2	0.6	0	0.0	0	0.0
3	49	19.0	85	32.9	86	33.3	34	13.2	3	1.2	1	0.4	0	0.0
4	39	20.1	44	22.7	56	28.9	37	19.1	17	8.8	1	0.5	0	0.0
5	19	15.0	30	23.6	28	22.0	29	22.8	11	8.7	10	7.9	0	0.0
6	31	41.9	13	17.6	11	14.9	3	4.1	10	13.5	2	2.7	4	5.4
Total	1,363	56.4	583	24.1	298	12.3	111	4.6	43	1.8	14	0.6	4	0.2

Table 7

Grades Awarded in College Preparatory
Courses at Miami-Dade Community College
Fall 1985 - Winter 1986

College-Wide

Course	Grades Awarded	Grades									
		S		P		U		W		Other	
		No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
REA0001	207	101	48.8	87	42.0	7	3.4	12	5.8	0	0.0
REA0002	620	449	72.4	119	19.2	18	2.9	31	5.0	3	0.5
ENC0006	209	76	36.4	112	53.5	6	2.9	15	7.2	0	0.0
ENC0007	711	477	67.2	193	27.1	17	2.4	23	3.2	1	0.1
MAT0003	310	189	61.0	49	15.8	28	9.0	44	14.2	0	0.0
MAT0024*	692	486	70.2	82	11.8	45	6.6	78	11.3	1	0.1

S = Satisfacory-Course Requirements Complete
P = Progress-Course Requirements Not Complete
U = Unsatisfactory
W = Withdrew
Other = Incomplete, Grade Not Reported by Instructor or Student Was Auditing Class

*In some cases (14%) letter grades (A-F) were issued in this course. For these cases, A's,B's and C's were considered satisfactory, D's were considered as progress, and F's were considered unsatisfactory.

June 23, 1986

M E M O R A N D U M

TO: All Faculty and Staff

FROM: Academic Affairs Committee
Research and Testing Committee

SUBJECT: PLACEMENT CRITERIA FOR ACADEMIC YEAR 1986-87*

The State of Florida requires each public college and university to administer one of the following four test batteries to degree-seeking students prior to registration: SAT, ACT, ASSET, or Florida MAPS. Miami-Dade Community College has selected the Florida MAPS. All scores below which students are designated for college preparatory work have been determined at the state level and are the same for each college or university. For the first time, the scores used in this document and the scores on terminal screens are reported as scale scores, not raw scores.

Students who do not have sufficient mastery of the English language at first entry will be permitted to write the English Placement Test (EPT) but must write the Florida MAPS before any course other than an ESL course is taken. A registration hold is in place to prevent student registration until scores are presented. Miami-Dade will require students who meet any of the following definitions to write the Florida MAPS prior to registration unless exempted as indicated below.

1. All first-time-in-college students who designate themselves as degree-seeking. Such students may not register for any credit course at Miami-Dade until they have scores on file.
2. All students who register for any English or mathematics course.
3. All students who register beyond 15 cumulative credits.
4. All students who are currently in high school. (A score on any portion of the basic skills assessment which requires college preparatory placement precludes concurrent enrollment at Miami-Dade.)
5. All students who took a placement exam more than three years ago and who have not used those scores for placement decisions.

Exemptions from assessment are limited to:

1. Students who have earned an associate degree or higher from an accredited institution.
2. Students who present scores obtained over three years ago, but who have had them used in course placement decisions.
3. Students who present a score at or above 900 on the SAT or 19 on the ACT.
4. Students in specified programs for which the College President may waive assessment within the guidelines provided by State Rule.

*The same criteria were in place for the 1985-86 Academic Year but the memorandum put out at that time listed the raw scores rather than scaled scores. In order to remain congruent with current critiera listing scaled scores, the 1986-87 memorandum is presented here.

The following cutoff scores on the four subtests of the Florida MAPS, Form B, will be in effect for the Academic Year 1986-87:

a) Test of Standard Written English (TSWE): Students who score below a scale score of 30 are to enroll in college preparatory work. Students who score between 30-36 should typically take ENC 1100 before they enroll in ENC 1101. Exceptions should occur in the advisement process only when using other pertinent academic information. To enroll directly in ENC 1101, a score of 37 is recommended. (Scores are obtained using a scoring formula which subtracts for incorrect answers.)

b) Reading Comprehension (RC): A college preparatory reading course is required for students who score below a scale score of 12. All students who score less than 5 will not be permitted to enroll in core, distribution, or elective courses without seeing an advisor for specific approval to register for any such course.

c) Arithmetic Skills (AS): Although not required by the State, students will be administered the arithmetic skills portion of the MAPS. Students who score less than 116 in arithmetic and less than 206 in algebra must begin their mathematics studies with MAT 0003.

d) Elementary Algebra (EA): Students who score below a scale score of 206 on the elementary algebra examination must take the algebra preparatory course (MAT 0024). Students scoring 206-209, although eligible for MAT 1033, are encouraged to begin their math sequence with MAT 00024. Students scoring 210 or better on the algebra examination may qualify for initial enrollment in MAC 1102 and certain other higher level mathematics courses, but may also choose MAT 1033.

If scores on one or more of the subtests require college preparatory placement, students must enroll in at least one college preparatory course. Although there are no computer locks in place for course levelling within college preparatory work, the college-wide guidelines for levelling are:

			Percentile Ranks for the Highest Score of the Interval	
Course	MAPS Subtest	Scale Score	National Percentile	M-DCC Percentile
ENC 0006	TSWE	1- 20	1	20
ENC 0007	TSWE	21- 29	13	50
REA 0001	RC	1- 4	7	20
REA 0002	RC	5- 11	25	45
MAT 0003	AS	101-115	61*	40
MAT 0024	EA	201-205	50**	--

*For students who have not had algebra.
**For students who have had one or two semesters of algebra.

Florida MAPS and CGP Placement Criteria for
Academic Year 1986-87

Test	MAPS Form A (Before 7/1/85) Raw Score	MAPS Form B (After 7/1/85) Raw Score	MAPS Scale Score	Course Placement	Related Information
Test of Standard Written English	0- 9	0- 8	1- 20	ENC 0006	Required
	10-18	9-16	21- 29	ENC 0007	Required
	19-24	17-23	30- 36	ENC 1100	Recommended
	25+	24+	37+	ENC 1101	Recommended
Reading	0-16	0-16	1- 4	REA 0001 (Must see academic advisor)	Required
	17-26	17-27	5- 11	REA 0002	Required
	27-30	28-31	12- 14	REA 1105	Recommended
If Arithmetic	0-25	0-23	101-115	MAT 0003	Required (1)
and Algebra	0-13	0-13	201-205	MAT 0024	Required
If Arithmetic	26+	24+	116+		
and Algebra	0-13	0-13	201-205	MAT 0024	Required
and Algebra	14-18	14-17	206-209	See note (2)	
and Algebra	19+	18+	210+	MAT 1033 or higher	See note (3)

(1) Students falling below the passing score in both Computation and Algebra MUST take MAT 0003 and MAT 0024 either sequentially or concurrently.

(2) Although eligible for MAT 1033, students in this score range are encouraged to begin their math sequence with MAT 0024.

(3) Math placement for students scoring 210+ on MAPS depends upon the student's major, previous coursework in mathematics, and transfer program (see appropriate AA grid).

Writing samples may be administered in English classes and class placement changed based on the results of the writing sample. In keeping with State Rule, students at or above the cutscores identified as likely to benefit from college preparatory placement may enroll in college preparatory courses.

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